THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The authorised strength as on 31st July, 2000 was 5159, 3489 and 2756 for the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Forest Service respectively.

(b) The authorised strength of each Service for the last three years is shown as under:

Year	IAS	IPS	IFS
1999-2000	5159	3489	2756
1998-1999	5124	3442	2736
1997-1998	5094	3442	2736

(c) and (d) Any increase or decrease in the authorised strength depends upon decisions taken in the cadre reviews held in that year in consultation with the State Governments concerned. The requirements of the State Governments are taken into consideration during the cadre reviews. The authorised strength is fixed in these cadre reviews which are held ordinarily at an interval of five years in accordance with the Cadre Rules of the respective Service.

Proposal of Chief Ministers of some States about downsizing the Government

2147. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) while addressing a conclave of nine Chief Ministers on 21st June, 2000, the Prime Minister had indicated that Government was very keen on the proposal made by Chief Minister about downsizing the Governments;

(b) if so, has any concrete proposal or proposals being considered by Government in this connection; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the time-frame for implementation of such downsizing exercises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Chief Ministers of some States had called on the Prime Minister on 21st

June, 2000 to place before him various financial problems affecting their States. The Prime Minister did not make any formal address at this meeting.

Interim report on the support to SSI Sector

2148. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Export Committee headed by the Planning Commission Member, has submitted an interim report on the support to be given to the SSI Sector while preparing them for global competition in view of the W.T.O. commitments for scrapping all quantitative restrictions on imports, effective from April, 2001; and

(b) if so, the major recommendations of the Committee and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. A Study Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission.

(b) The major recommendations of the study Group relate to definitional changes, raising the corpus of Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Tiny Sector to Rs. 2500 crores, strengthening of State Financial Corporations, the enhancement of the excise exemption limit to Rs. 1 crore, the enactment of a separate Act for the growth and development of the small scale sector, conducting of third census of registered small scale units, creation of Technology Modernisation Fund, extending of greater marketing support to the small scale sector by the Government. These recommendations are being examined by the Government.